

AMERICAN DRAGON: JAKE LONG  
"A Befuddled Mind"  
(777A-214)

**TEASER**

EXT. SPUD'S APARTMENT BUILDING - DAY

ESTABLISHING SHOT - of the lower East Side Brownstone.

INT. SPUD'S BEDROOM - DAY

TRIXIE AND JAKE sit at a small table trying to concentrate on their homework... but something catches Trixie's eye. She tries to ignore it, but finally, she can't take it anymore.

|   |                                    |   |
|---|------------------------------------|---|
| 1 | TRIXIE                             | 1 |
|   | <annoyed groan> Spud, what in the  |   |
|   | <coo-coo> are you doing? In case   |   |
|   | you forgot, we have a standardized |   |
|   | test to study for.                 |   |

WIDEN TO INCLUDE SPUD who's dressed as a MIME with a black hat, a black leotard and his face is powdered white.

|   |                                     |   |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| 2 | SPUD                                | 2 |
|   | If you must know, I too am planning |   |
|   | for my future.                      |   |

|   |                                 |   |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 3 | JAKE                            | 3 |
|   | Yeah, uh... how's that exactly? |   |

|   |                                   |   |
|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| 4 | SPUD                              | 4 |
|   | My guidance counselor reviewed my |   |
|   | academic records and suggested I  |   |
|   | was most suited to a career as a  |   |
|   | street performer. Behold--        |   |

SPUD begins to 'mime' that he's stuck in a box. As he does, he narrates his actions...

|   |                                  |   |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 5 | SPUD                             | 5 |
|   | I'm stuck in a box. This box has |   |
|   | four walls. I can't get out. I'm |   |
|   | starting to panic...             |   |

|   |                         |   |
|---|-------------------------|---|
| 6 | JAKE                    | 6 |
|   | Okay, mimes don't talk. |   |

Spud, exasperated, forgets about his miming.

7 SPUD 7  
I'm just a *beginner*. It takes YEARS  
before you can create a wall  
without talking. YEARS!

8 JAKE 8  
Your guidance counsellor'd be  
singing a different tune if she  
knew how smart you really are.

Trixie nods in agreement.

9 TRIXIE 9  
For real! Why don't you actually  
try on tomorrow's test for once?

10 SPUD 10  
No can do. I only need to fail  
fifty-seven more tests to complete  
my answer bubble ode to DaVinci's  
Last Supper.

Spud shows off ROWS OF THIN, STANDARDIZED TEST ANSWER SHEETS  
that are pinned to the wall. WE PULL WIDE - circles that look  
random meld together to make a drawing of THE LAST SUPPER.

11 JAKE 11  
Spud, why are you so afraid to let  
anyone know you're a brainiac?

Spud is suddenly "pulled" out of the room by a rope.

12 SPUD 12  
I'm holding onto a rope... It's  
pulling me out of the room...

Jake and Trixie take to each other.

13 TRIXIE 13  
If that boy would just show  
everyone what he can do with that  
head of his. And I don't mean that  
dancing bowtie trick he does with  
his Adam's apple.

14 JAKE 14  
Yeah. Then he wouldn't have to  
roll through life as a mime.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CHAPEL - FANTASY - DAY

TRIXIE and JAKE sit in pews in their Sunday-best looking with horror at MIME SPUD getting married to a MIME BRIDE.

|    |                             |    |
|----|-----------------------------|----|
| 15 | PRIEST                      | 15 |
|    | You may now kiss the bride! |    |

Spud and his bride each turn around, putting their arms around themselves in a 'mime make-out'.

WIPE TO:

INT. HOSPITAL - FANTASY - DAY

OLDER MIME SPUD 'walks down a set of stairs' behind a wall with a big window in it. REVERSE TO REVEAL a laughing MIME BABY on the other side of the hospital nursery viewing room.

WIPE TO:

INT. DINING ROOM - FANTASY - NIGHT

MIME SPUD sits with his MIME FAMILY miming the eating of a meal. There's mime corn, mime soup, etc. Spud rubs his belly, and sits back from the table indicating he's stuffed.

WIPE BACK TO:

INT. SPUD'S ROOM - BACK TO SCENE

Jake looks determined.

|    |   |    |
|----|---|----|
| 16 | JAKE  | 16 |
|    | Tomorrow's test determines what honors classes we can take next year, and honors classes get you into college and a good college means a good job. So, I'm gonna do Spud the biggest favor of his life. |    |

|    |             |    |
|----|-------------|----|
| 17 | TRIXIE      | 17 |
|    | How's that? |    |

|    |   |    |
|----|---|----|
| 18 | JAKE  | 18 |
|    | I'm gonna make sure he finally gets the props he deserves... by getting him to take the test. For real. |    |

SUBWAY MAP TRANSITION TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - THE NEXT DAY

ON JAKE who sits down next to Spud, leans over, and whispers.

|    |                                  |    |
|----|----------------------------------|----|
| 19 | JAKE                             | 19 |
|    | Hey, Spud. My academic standings |    |
|    | could use a little juicin'. Mind |    |
|    | acing my test for me?            |    |

Spud 'mimes' a wall, then opening a little door in that wall, and then giving Jake a 'thumbs up'.

|    |                                   |    |
|----|-----------------------------------|----|
| 20 | SPUD                              | 20 |
|    | I'm behind a wall. I'm opening a  |    |
|    | door. I'm giving you a thumbs up. |    |

ROTWOOD - checks his watch, and addresses the class.

|    |              |    |
|----|--------------|----|
| 21 | ROTWOOD      | 21 |
|    | And...BEGIN! |    |

MUSIC PULSES under a QUICK MONTAGE: SPUD furiously fills out his exam, then hands it to JAKE, who clearly WRITES SPUD'S NAME on the top of the paper, and then puts his name on his own. He walks to the front of the room and hands it in to...

ROTWOOD - who takes the exams and starts running them through a grading machine until it lights up like a slot machine that just hit the jackpot. ROTWOOD stands up, clearly excited.

|    |                                    |    |
|----|------------------------------------|----|
| 22 | ROTWOOD                            | 22 |
|    | I-I don't believe it. The first    |    |
|    | perfect standardized test score in |    |
|    | the history of Millard Fillmore    |    |
|    | Middle School?!                    |    |

He pulls the sheet out of the machine and looks at it.

|    |                                     |    |
|----|-------------------------------------|----|
| 23 | ROTWOOD                             | 23 |
|    | Our own resident genius is-- SPUD?! |    |

We PUSH IN on Spud who 'mimes' a horror face. Then--

|    |                       |    |
|----|-----------------------|----|
| 24 | SPUD                  | 24 |
|    | I'm yelling 'nooooo'. |    |

SMASH TO:

OPENING TITLES

**ACT ONE**

EXT. JAKE'S SCHOOL - ESTABLISHING - NEXT DAY

The bell RINGS.

INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

Jake, Spud, and Trixie enter and take their seats as a still shocked Rotwood keeps trying to pass Spud's test through his machine.

|    |                                     |    |
|----|-------------------------------------|----|
| 25 | ROTWOOD                             | 25 |
|    | For the love of all that is         |    |
|    | superior - German cars, German      |    |
|    | strudel, German girdles and the     |    |
|    | women who wear them- this can't be! |    |

Jake nudges Spud.

|    |                                   |    |
|----|-----------------------------------|----|
| 26 | JAKE                              | 26 |
|    | Dang, it's been like a day and    |    |
|    | half. You'd think he'd be over it |    |
|    | by now.                           |    |

|    |                                     |    |
|----|-------------------------------------|----|
| 27 | SPUD                                | 27 |
|    | Yeah, it's weird. I always thought  |    |
|    | if I showed my noggin in all its    |    |
|    | nogginating glory, my life would    |    |
|    | change like <shabaam!>. But so far, |    |
|    | it's like totally shaboring.        |    |

At that, the door SLAMS open. A John Belushi in The Blues Brothers type SECRET AGENT (BRAINARD) steps into the room. He flashes a badge at Rotwood.

|    |                                 |    |
|----|---------------------------------|----|
| 28 | BRAINARD                        | 28 |
|    | The name is Brainard. Agent     |    |
|    | Brainard. From the Manhattan    |    |
|    | Genius Institute. I'm here for- |    |

Rotwood gasps and claps his hands together with joy.

|    |                                      |    |
|----|--------------------------------------|----|
| 29 | ROTWOOD                              | 29 |
|    | <gasp> MGI?! The elite two week      |    |
|    | boot camp for brains? I assumed      |    |
|    | you'd want to recruit me to teach    |    |
|    | there, but you've come faster than   |    |
|    | expected. Oh, hardball schmardball - |    |
|    | - I accept!                          |    |

Rotwood skips over to Brainard, hooks arms with him, and swings him around in a German folk dance while singing...

30 ROTWOOD 30  
(sings) I'm going to teach at the  
Genius Institute. La-la-la-la-

Rotwood continues to skip and <SING> as...

31 BRAINARD 31  
No, I'm here for one Arthur P.  
Spudinski.

32 ROTWOOD 32  
--la-la-waaaaa? Spudinski?! You  
must be mistaken. Look at him!

All heads in the class WHIP around as we RAPID PUSH IN TO SPUD who is sitting, slouched, at his chair with his bare foot in his mouth biting his toe. He notices the looks.

33 SPUD 33  
What? In my book, a clean toe is a  
happy toe. Ha-ha!

He makes his toe 'laugh'.

34 BRAINARD 34  
Mr. Spudinski, may I have a word?

Rotwood becomes desperate.

35 ROTWOOD 35  
No! This is a mistake! The machine.  
It malfunctioned! I'm sure of it!

Spud walks towards the front of the room as Rotwood frantically tries to put Spud's test back into the machine, but his shirtsleeve gets caught in it and starts to pull him in closer and closer.

36 ROTWOOD 36  
This is... highly...uncomfortable.

He is twisted around until his shirt rips off... but by then, his pants are caught up in it. As Rotwood attempts to keep his pants on in the background, Brainard talks to Spud.

37 BRAINARD 37  
Mr. Spudinski, your test score is  
very impressive. So impressive  
we're offering you a place at the  
Manhattan Genius Institute.

Brainard hands Spud a BROCHURE. Spud peruses it, confused.

38 SPUD 38  
The Genius Institute?

39 BRAINARD 39  
It's a two week program designed to  
cultivated the brightest minds in  
the tri-state area.

Spud takes panicked to Jake and Trixie.

40 SPUD 40  
Wow, I'm honored and all, but...

He holds out his pockets which are empty but for a few pieces  
of lint, and some chewed gum.

41 SPUD (CONT'D) 41  
I've got no moola for the schoola.  
So unless I can pay tuition in  
pocket lint and pre-chewed gum,  
I'll have to respectfully decline.

As Spud tries to slip away, Brainard puts a forceful arm  
around him.

42 BRAINARD 42  
Your tuition will be covered by an  
anonymous 'benefactor'. Your  
parents have already signed the  
paperwork. So, it's settled. I  
expect to see you tomorrow  
morning... at the Institute.

Brainard leaves as Rotwood's pants are pulled off. He stands  
in a pair of red footsie one piece long underwear. He looks  
down at himself and cries... \*

43 ROTWOOD 43  
Nooooooooo!

44 SPUD 44  
Gotta tell ya Professor Rotdude,  
I'm pretty upset about it myself.

Rotwood faints as...

Jake sits next to the window as FU DOG's face appears in the  
window beside him. Jake notices, and checks to see make sure  
no one else does.

45 JAKE 45  
Fu??

46 FU DOG 46  
Sorry to bug ya at school, kid. We  
got a little dragon emergency.

CUT TO:

INT. ABANDONED TRAIN TUNNEL - LATER THAT AFTERNOON

Jake and Trixie follow Fu down the dark dank tunnel holding  
TORCHES.

47 TRIxie 47  
So what exactly are we down here  
looking for?

48 FU DOG 48  
A sewer troll alerted Gramps that  
someone's stashing a powerful  
magical artifact down here  
somewhere. We gotta find it before  
it ends up in the wrong hands.

49 JAKE 49  
In other words, "the usual."

We reveal that Spud follows behind them, putting on his mime  
white face as he walks.

50 SPUD 50  
Speaking of 'usual,' that's how I  
like my life. Usual. Same-old,  
same-old. But now, thanks to  
someone who shall not be named, my  
existence is careening off in a  
collision course with change!

51 JAKE 51  
Sorry for caring!

52 SPUD 52  
Yeah, me too!

53 TRIxie 53  
Spud, don't you think you're over-  
wiggling?



54 SPUD 54  
 No, Trix. I don't. Once you get  
 labeled a smart lass or laddie,  
 life is all work and no play. My  
 Pops taught me that when I was but  
 a babe...

CUT TO:

INT. SPUD'S APARTMENT - FLASHBACK - DAY

ON SPUD'S DAD - who looks like a very conservative version of  
 Spud. He is standing in front of an easel with a large pad of  
 paper with a bunch of mathematical equations on it.

55 SPUD'S DAD 55  
 And that, son, in a nutshell, is  
 trickle down economics. Understand?

A LARGE SPOONFUL OF MASHED POTATOES hits Spud's Dad on the  
 face. REVERSE TO REVEAL - BABY SPUD <LAUGHING> at his Dad.

56 SPUD'S DAD 56  
 You're too smart to laugh at that  
 kind of broad slapstick humor,  
 mister.

Spud, whose lip began to tremble during that speech makes a  
 <BURP>. The sound makes him <LAUGH> and <CLAP>.

RIPPLE BACK TO:

INT. ABANDONED TRAIN TUNNEL - BACK TO SCENE

57 SPUD 57  
 All I'm saying is -- I like my life  
 just the way it is.

58 FU DOG 58  
 Yeah, tragic kid. But if we can get  
 back to saving the magical world...

Fu has spotted something.

REVEAL - A ancient, magical-looking box with intricate  
 carvings. Everyone gathers around it, intrigued.

59 TRIxie 59  
 Yo... What is it?

Fu inspects the carvings.

60 FU DOG 60  
Hard to say for sure, but if memory  
serves, it's--

61 PANDARUS (O.S.) 61  
--not yours!

They look up to see ELI PANDARUS facing them, looking as smarmy and evil as ever.

62 PANDARUS 62  
Now step away from the box and  
maybe -- just maybe-- I'll let you  
all live.

Jake's eyes narrow in recognition. He steps forward.

63 JAKE 63  
Eli Pandarus. What's a lying,  
cheating evil wizard doing in a  
place like this?

64 PANDARUS 64  
You say the sweetest things. But it  
will take more than flattery to  
stop me from taking what's mine so  
that I can... um... let's see...  
what was that again? Oh yes, TAKE  
OVER THE MAGICAL WORLD!

Jake glares at him.

65 JAKE (CONT'D) 65  
Sorry, Pandarus, but the only world  
you're taking over, is a world of  
pain. Dragon up!

As Jake 'dragons up'--

66 PANDARUS 66  
Gosh, I'd love to stay and chatter-  
chat, but I've got big plans. World  
domination and so forth. So, I'll  
have to let my minions' fists do  
the talking.

Pandarus -- waves his SCEPTER, causing THREE OGRE HENCHMEN to materialize in between them.

Jake squares off against them in a spectacular Dragon versus Ogre battle.

67 JAKE 67  
Time for a little minion mashing.  
Heeya! <various efforts and  
impacts>

68 OGRES 68  
<hits and efforts>

Spud 'mimes' a brick and throws it at an Ogre #2.

69 SPUD 69  
I'm throwing a brick. It's having  
no apparent affect.

The Ogre #2 turns towards him, and Spud screams.

70 SPUD 70  
Ahhhhh! I'm running for my life!

Meanwhile, Jake kicks Ogre #1 into the turnstile.

71 JAKE/OGRE #1 71  
<action noise> / Whaaaa..oof!!

TOKENS POUR OUT OF THE TURNSTILE hitting the ogre on the  
head. Jake grabs the second ogre throwing him on the tracks.

72 JAKE 72  
**Just** don't touch the rail. \*

The ogre, disoriented, touches the rail, and Jake hits him  
with a blast of fire.

73 JAKE 73  
I told you not to touch it!

As Jake squares off against Ogre #3--

Pandarus makes a grab for the box..

74 PANDARUS 74  
So hard to get good help these  
days. Tata, Dragon.

Trixie dives for him.

75 TRIxie 75  
Yaaaaaah!

At the last possible second, Pandarus vanishes in a magical  
burst, along with the ogres... and Pandora's Box.

The gang exchange looks of disappointment.

76 JAKE  
Aw, man.

76

SUBWAY MAP TRANSITION TO:

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - LATER

GRANDPA is looking at a HOLOGRAM OF PANDORA'S BOX (the same box we saw earlier) which projects out of an ANCIENT JOURNAL.

77 GRANDPA  
Pandora's box. Locked within is an  
evil capable of unspeakable  
horrors. It hasn't been opened  
since--

77

REVEAL - Fu Dog, Jake, Trixie, and Spud looking on. Fu fesses up.

78 FU DOG  
--I went out with Pandora's pet  
Pomeranian.

78

Jake, Trixie, and Spud react, surprised.

79 JAKE  
You dated Pandora's pooch?

79

80 FU DOG  
If by "dated" you mean "I scratched  
her back, and she scratched mine,"  
then yeah.

80

RECORD SCRATCH TO:

INT. PANDORA'S HUT - FLASHBACK

FU stands next to a romantically set dog table. A POMERANIAN walks in with a DOGGIE BOWL in her mouth, which she sets in front of Fu. Fu inspects it's contents apprehensively.

81 FU DOG  
A grass, slobber, and pig ear stir  
fry. My little chew toy, you *really*  
shouldn't have. <sigh> Here goes...

81

Fu takes a bite. It's awful, but he smiles through it.

82 FU DOG  
Mmmm-mmmm. Delish!

82

As she smiles and turns away, Fu quickly looks for someplace to trash the food. He opens A BOX that says 'PANDORA'S BOX' and spits his food out, but a DOZEN IDENTICAL GHOSTLY CREATURES pour out of it, emitting a frightening <WAIL>.

83 FU DOG 83  
<screams like a little girl>

RECORD SCRATCH BACK TO:

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - BACK TO SCENE

Fu shudders at the memory. The others look on, stunned.

84 FU DOG 84  
The whole thing taught me a very  
valuable lesson... (dramatic  
beat)...if you gotta box fulla  
evil, put a lock on it, will ya?

Jake considers the information.

85 JAKE 85  
So what does Pandarus want with a  
big 'ol box of bad?

Grandpa looks on, gravely.

86 GRANDPA 86  
Good question. Only direct  
descendents of Pandora are capable  
of controlling the evil locked  
within.

87 SPUD 87  
Pandora, Pandarus... Pandora,  
Pandarus...

Jake's face fills with concern.

88 JAKE 88  
Spud, you think they're related?

89 SPUD 89  
No, I was thinking those would make  
good names for a brother/sister  
team of crime fighting pandas, but,  
related? I'll go with that.

90           TRIXIE                                 90  
Hold up. If Pandaras can control  
the evil, why didn't he just open  
up the box in the subway tunnel?

91 GRANDPA 91  
I do not know. But, we must find  
out before it is too late.

Spud looks at the clock and slumps.

92 SPUD 92

Yeah, I'd love to help you save the magical world n' all, but I start my internment at the Genius Institute tomorrow.

93 GRANDPA 93  
Genius Institute? You? <laughter>

Grandpa starts to laugh out of control.

94 SPUD 94  
Aw, look, the G-man is crying. Now  
I'm crying too.

Grandpa bends over laughing until he cries.

95      SPUD                                  95  
Let it out ol' dragon man. Let it  
out.

96 GRANDPA 96  
<even bigger wailing laughter>

Off of Grandpa's laughter, we...

SUBWAY MAP TRANSITION TO:

EXT. ARMORY - FRONT STEPS - THE NEXT MORNING

Jake and Trixie walk Spud up to the steps of MGI which is housed in the old military looking Armory building on the East side.

97 SPUD 97

Thanks for walking me to my first  
day of genius-sizing.

Trixie gives Spud a hug.

98      TRIXIE

98

There's no place else I'd be right now. Except on a date with Kyle Wilkins. I'd sell ya down the river for a date with Kyle Wilkins. I mean, if "fine" was a crime, that boy'd be behind bars. Wooweeee! Lock 'em up and throw away the key!

Spud, realizing Trixie is off in her own world, turns to Jake.

99      JAKE

99

Yeah. And, I just wanted to say... you'll see. Life doesn't have to be all play and no work, or all work and no play.

100     SPUD

100

Yeah, later.

Spud, sad as can be, walks up the steps.

101     JAKE

101

(sotto)

...and... I'm sorry I switched the tests, yo. We're gonna miss you. Right Trix?

WIDEN TO INCLUDE TRIXIE - who is still lost in thought.

102     TRIXIE

102

I mean seriously, if the crime is "fine," then Kyle Wilkins is guilty as charged! Can I get an 'I heard that, sister?

Jake rolls his eyes as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ARMORY - LECTURE HALL - DAY

Spud sits nervously at a seat in a large lecture hall. He's surrounded by the nerdiest of the nerds.

IRA steps up to him, and puts out his hand.

103     IRA

103

I can multiply up to the sixteenth decimal point without a calculator.

Next to him is ARONA.

104 ARONA 104  
I won the National Spelling Bee  
when I was seven.

105 IRA 105  
What's your specialty?

106 SPUD 106  
I do an awesome mime rendition of  
road rage.

Spud mimes getting into a car, and then honking on the horn.

107 SPUD 107  
I'm getting in my car. Someone cuts  
me off. I honk my horn, and yell at  
them. Hoooonk! Hoooonk! Hey you--  
<school bell> --where you're  
going!!

Spud RANTS as a <SCHOOL BELL> beeps it out.

108 IRA 108  
Mimes don't talk.

109 SPUD 109  
I'M JUST A BEGINNER!

The two kids exchange glances and hurry away as the teacher  
(MRS. GRUMPELSTOCK) comes in.

110 MRS. GRUMPELSTOCK 110  
Students, welcome to The Genius  
Institute. Tomorrow, we begin to  
test the depths of your  
intelligence.

Students clap with excitement.

111 STUDENTS 111  
I love testing!/ I test therefore I  
am./ Yay!

112 MRS. GRUMPELSTOCK 112  
This room is filled with the  
world's the most extraordinary  
young minds.

WE WATCH as students eye each other over their pocket  
protectors and through their coke-bottle glasses.



113 MRS. GRUMPELSTOCK (CONT'D) 113  
 Take each face in, and ask  
 yourself. Who amongst us is the  
one? The smartest of them all?

The teacher looks around, then lands on--

SPUD - who is 'miming' flying a kite in the corner.

114 MRS. GRUMPELSTOCK 114  
 Yes, you have a question?

115 SPUD 115  
 Huh? No... I'm flying a kite and  
 the wind is very strong- whoaaaaa!

Spud loses his balance and <TOPPLES> over the chair behind  
 him. THE CLASS <GASPS>. Off the teacher's annoyed face we...

CUT TO:

INT. ARMORY - DORM ROOM HALLS - AFTERNOON

Spud walks down the hall with an odd gait. (NOTE: We see him  
 only from the waist up.) He takes in a dorm buzzing with nerd-  
 driven exploits. Students do experiments/build robots/study.

A GIRL - who is carrying so many books she can't see where  
 she's going collides with a kid who is organizing his  
 flashcards. Both collapse to the floor.

116 BOOK GIRL/CARD BOY 116  
 You got your flashcards in my  
 books!/ You got your books in my  
 flash cards!

Spud passes a kid who has on a short trench coat (TRENCH COAT  
 KID). He flashes one side, then the other.

117 TRENCH COAT KID 117  
 You need it, I got it. **Monogrammed**  
**staplers, titanium paper clips,** and  
 an abacus that'll blow your mind. \*

118 SPUD 118  
 Thanks, dude. I'm good on the  
 abacuses.

He passes a girl with DNA PATTERNED HAIR (HAIR GIRL).

119 SPUD 119  
 Like your locks.

120 HAIR GIRL 120  
Thanks. It's inspired by the  
polynucleotide chains that make up  
DNA's double helix.

121 SPUD 121  
Cool.

122 HAIR GIRL 122  
I like your fin.

123 SPUD 123  
Thanks. It's inspired by my love of  
all things Mermadian.

We PAN DOWN to see Spud is wearing A MERMAID FIN. He looks  
over and sees Arona and Ira.

124 SPUD 124  
So, anyone wanna play mermaid  
hopscotch. It's so much harder when  
you only have a flipper.

125 ARONA 125  
You're kidding right? We don't have  
time for games at The Genius  
Institute. I mean, we have  
placement tests starting tomorrow  
morning.

ANXIOUS GIRL walks up to them freaking out.

126 ANXIOUS GIRL 126  
I'm gonna blow these tests like I  
blew the preschool entrance exam.  
Square peg in a round hole?! What  
was I thinking?! I live with the  
shame every day!

She starts to <HYPERVENTILATE>. Ira steps forward.

127 IRA 127  
Look, Spudinski, I don't know what  
your angle is, but starting  
tomorrow, it'll be clear that I'm  
the smartest kid here.

128 ARONA 128  
As if.

129 IRA 129  
You wanna a piece'a this? What's  
2653 divided by 467?! Huh? Huh?!

130 ARONA 130  
Oh yeah, spell staphylococci!

Spud looks in his hand where he holds another mermaid fin.

131 SPUD 131  
I brought an extra fin... if anyone  
wants to... <sighs> I knew being  
smart would be so not fun.

PULL OUT TO:

INT. ARMORY - HIGH-TECH CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

A SHADOWY FIGURE stands in front of a HUGE bank of SECURITY MONITORS, looking over the various students in their rooms. Note: A TOAD sits next to the monitors looking on.

Monitor 1) shows a student in a lab coat working on a science experiment. He pours liquid into a beaker. A PUFF OF SMOKE fills the screen as we look to... Monitor 2) which has a female student who is filling out math problems with a marker on her window. From her we pan to... Monitor 3) which has Spud, alone, playing "Mer-hopscotch".

WE PULL BACK to reveal Eli Pandarus looking over the monitors as he talks to the toad.

132 PANDARUS 132  
That's right, one of them is 'the  
one'... and when I find them,  
they'll be mine forever. And by  
forever, I actually mean a few  
minutes... before I do away with  
the little bugger. <evil laugh>

As SPUD turns, lonely, to look longingly out the window, we PUSH INTO THE MONITOR and...

FADE OUT.

END ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - DAY

Jake combs through a magical journal. He talks to an O.S. Trixie.

|     |   |     |
|-----|---|-----|
| 133 | JAKE  | 133 |
|     | Hey Trix, check it -- according to this journal, a few centuries back, Pandora's Box was modified with an enchanted lock. Maybe that's why Pandarus hasn't opened it -- because he doesn't know how to! |     |
|     | (no response)   |     |
|     | Trix?   |     |

REVEAL - Trixie sits on the couch, watching TV. Jake walks in up to her, wearing a quizzical look.

ON TV - TWO MIME TENNIS PLAYERS miming a game of tennis. WIDE TO - a MIME CROWD 'applauding'.

One lunges and misses a shot. Then he 'throws' his racket down and rushes the ump in a 'Mime Mcenroe' move.

|     |   |     |
|-----|---|-----|
| 134 | TRIXIE  | 134 |
|     | You gotta be kidding! That was out by a mile! |     |

|     |                           |     |
|-----|---------------------------|-----|
| 135 | JAKE                      | 135 |
|     | Uh, what're you watching? |     |

|     |   |     |   |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 136 | TRIXIE  | 136 |   |
|     | The mime channel. I know I should be happy for him, but I can't help missing our little Mime-Boy. |     | * |
|     |   |     | * |
|     |   |     | * |

|     |                       |     |
|-----|-----------------------|-----|
| 137 | JAKE                  | 137 |
|     | Yeah, I miss him too. |     |

|      |        |      |   |
|------|--------|------|---|
| 137A | TRIXIE | 137A | * |
|      | <sigh> |      | * |

Trixie turns away from him, <sighs>, and turns up the volume on the TV. CLOSE ON - the raising volume bars. There is, of course, no sound. \*

CUT TO:

INT. ARMORY - LECTURE HALL - DAY

Spud nonchalantly walks into a room filled with stressed students. Ira and Arona are eyeing each other, doing a nerd version of a psyche-out warm-up. Ira practices grabbing a piece of chalk and writing an equation on the board as if he were a gunslinger, while Arona limbers up her lips with...

138 ARONA 138  
I before E except after C.

They spy Spud, who walks confidently over to the two of them.

139 IRA 139  
You two are goin' down.

140      ARONA      140

These tests are for superior  
intelligence... not annoyance...so,  
hello, *I'm* gonna win!

141 SPUD 141

You guys wanna know what it is I do  
better than you? Fail. That's  
right, I gotta black belt in  
underachieving, and I'm not afraid  
to use it. <over-the-top kung fu  
noises> Waaaaa-UMPFT! <impact>

He takes a kung-fu stance and with a flurry of made-up kicks advances on Ira, who backs up despite himself. Spud gets tangled up on himself and falls.

142 SPUD 142

Numero Uno Failure--o. And today,  
I'm gonna show off my skills. I bet  
you that I can fail outta here in  
one day. And, I'll have fun doing  
it.

143 IRA 143  
Fail? On purpose? It's impossible.

144 ARONA 144  
No true genius would do that. It's  
against out nature... our raison  
d'etre.

|  |      |     |
|--|------|-----|
| 145  | SPUD | 145 |
| Hmmm, I had a raison bagel for<br>breakfast. Delish. |      |     |

Mrs. Grumpelstock steps to the front of the room.

146 MRS. GRUMPELSTOCK 146  
We will now begin the advanced  
intelligence testing. For the first  
exam, the student who builds the  
strongest laser wins.

A QUICK MONTAGE--

1) ANXIOUS GIRL - makes a laser that just sort of <FIZZLES>  
out. She begins to cry and <HYPERVENTILATE>.

2) ARONA - turns her laser on and uses it to <EXPLODE> a  
watermelon. Mrs. Grumpelstock nods her approval.

3) IRA - confidently pulls his goggles over his face. His  
laser is pointed at a series of bull's-eyes. He turns it on,  
and it hits the first bull's-eye and goes through it, then  
the second, and the third. It continues THROUGH THE WALL.

THE CLASS RUNS to the wall and looks through it to see --

A MAN with a huge poof of white shaggy hair WITH A HOLE  
THROUGH IT. Beyond that...

An DELIVERY GUY carries a huge framed poster-sized picture of  
a woman in a BALLERINA OUTFIT. There is a hole where the  
dancer's head was. The man sticks his head through it to see  
what happened. At the sight of him, the class laughs--

147 CLASS 147  
<laughter>

--and Mrs. Grumpelstock nods her approval.

4) SPUD - places a few small mirrors around the room.

148 SPUD 148  
Ready to rock. Oh, and you might  
want some earplugs.

Mrs. Grumpelstock looks confused. A BLAST of pulsing metal  
music hits the room. Spud turns off the lights, and a full  
scale LASER LIGHT SHOW is underway.

SPUD - jumps up on Grumpelstock's desk and puts on A WILD  
AIR GUITAR SHOW to the music.

MRS. GRUMPELSTOCK, annoyed, pulls the plug on the music and  
flips the lights back on, but Spud doesn't seem to notice as  
he continues to work his air guitar around the room.

149 SPUD 149  
 <the sound of an electric guitar  
 solo>. My fingers are gooo-awwwws!  
 And windmill. And windmill. Fall to  
 the ground. Exhausted. I've given  
 my soul to the gods of rock.  
 Pronounce me worthy.

He slumps to a close. THE CLASS - stunned, is silent.

150 MRS. GRUMPELSTOCK 150  
 Well, that was very... loud, Spud.

He walks past Arona and Ira and gives them a thumbs up.

151 SPUD 151  
 (happy) Failed it.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ARMORY - LECTURE HALL - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

152 MRS. GRUMPELSTOCK 152  
 Next, we will test your knowledge  
 of chemistry.

We see A QUICK MONTAGE -

- 1) IRA - turns his liquid into a solid bust of himself.
- 2) ARONA - creates a gas that forms the SYMBOL FOR PI.
- 3) ANXIOUS GIRL - is anxious. Mrs. Grumpelstock walks by.

153 MRS. GRUMPELSTOCK 153  
 What did you make, dear?

Anxious Girl starts to itch herself.

154 ANXIOUS GIRL 154  
 I don't know. But I think I'm  
 allergic to it!

4) Mrs. Grumpelstock watches Spud who is mixing something.  
 But nothing is happening in his tube. He holds it up for her  
 to see. She looks, and a rapid explosion of bubbles pours out  
 of the test tube, covering Mrs. Grumpelstock from head to  
 toe.

SPUD wipes away a bunch of the bubbles, but then forms a  
 bubble Viking helmet and bubble beard and mustache on her.

She slaps his hands away, not realizing what's on her face.

155 MRS. GRUMPELSTOCK 155  
Mr. Spudinski, are you sure you  
received an invitation to MGI?

156 SPUD 156  
Yep. And Mrs. Grumpelstock? Dig the  
beard.

She realizes and angrily wipes the bubbles off her face.

157 MRS. GRUMPELSTOCK 157  
Mr. Spudinski, I don't know how you  
cheated on the entrance exam but I  
won't stand for it any longer.  
There's only one more test. When  
you fail it... you're time at the  
Genius Institute is over.

A SMALL NERDY BOY stands up and points at Spud.

158 NERDY BOY 158  
<maniacal laughter> You're a loser!  
A loser I tell ya!

He catches himself.

159 NERDY BOY 159  
What have I become? I've been  
bullied my whole life... yet, at  
the first sign of an outcast lower  
on the social totem pole than me,  
what do I do? I bully them. Is this  
who I want to become?!

A beat. And then he points and laughs maniacally at Spud.

160 NERDY BOY 160  
Yes. Yes it is. (beat) Ha-ha.  
Looseeeeer!

CUT TO:

INT. GRANDPA'S SHOP - THAT AFTERNOON

Trixie sits in Spud's place at the computer, but she's  
clearly frustrated. JAKE looks over her shoulder, while Fu  
Dog looks through some magical books.



161 JAKE 161  
Still nothing on Pandarus and his  
control of Pandora's box?

162 TRIxie 162  
No. But I found a video of a guy  
standing too close to the business  
end of an elephant. That's a whole  
lotta peanuts is all I can say.

Trixie slumps, depressed.

163 TRIxie 163  
Jakey, this is pointless. Spud's  
the computer genius. Not me.

Fu Dog gets an idea.

164 FU DOG 164  
Hold up. Before there was an  
internet we used to get the scoop  
the old fashioned way.

SWISH PAN TO:

EXT. THE SCOOP - ESTABLISHING

The Scoop is a dive ice cream joint. Over the entrance is a  
sign that says "HAPPY HOUR - 2 FOR 1 SUNDAES".

As FU, TRIxie AND JAKE stand in the foreground looking on...

165 FU DOG 165  
Believe you me, if Pandarus is up  
to something, someone here'll know  
about it. Come on.

They walk forward, and enter the front door.

CUT TO:

INT. THE SCOOP - CONTINUOUS

It's a boisterous ice cream bar filled with the rough and  
tumble fringe of the magical society. Trixie and Jake stop in  
their tracks to take it all in. We PAN WITH THEIR POV from...

--Two OGRES tossing a LEPRECHAUN into a basket under a sign  
that says, "LEPRECHAUN TOSS".

--TWO EIGHT ARMED OCTOPUS CREATURES - engaged in four armed arm wrestling.

-- TWO UNICORNS play pool with their horns.

-- A GIRL (MERMAID) flirts with a GROUP OF GUYS at the bar.

166 MERMAID 166  
Can someone get me some water?

THREE OGRES quickly turn to the bartender and ask for waters.

167 OGRES 167  
Water!/Water for the lady!/<grunt>

The bartender gives them each a glass of water. She takes each of the waters and pours them over her head. REVEAL - she's a mermaid.

168 MERMAID 168  
Thanks. I was parched!

FU - nudges Jake.

169 FU DOG 169  
He-hey. Bingo... look who's at the  
end of the bar nursing a milkshake  
and a grudge by the looks of it.

PAN THE BAR - to land on a broken MONTY HALL sitting and staring at the milkshake in front of him.

As they walk towards him, Trixie accidentally backs into an OGRE who spills his soda. He turns thinking a GIANT did it.

THE OGRE HITS THE GIANT as...

A FULL SCALE BRAWL brakes out. Trixie, Jake and Fu Dog manage to duck, slide and work their way past it without getting hurt. Around them 1) THE OCTOPUS CREATURE - punches four creatures at once. 2)THE MERMAID - slaps one of her suitors with her fin as-- 3)THE BARTENDER - pours a milkshake on top of a FAIRY. The FAIRY flies away with a cherry on his head. Unable to see he slams right into-- 4) THE CYCLOPSE'S EYE. The cyclops starts to pound his club around on the floor. He comes close to Trixie who turns to stand up to him.

170 TRIXIE 170  
Hey, watch where you're goin'!

The Cyclops stands there for a second stunned, then furious, lifts the club high over his head.

|                                  |          |     |
|----------------------------------|----------|-----|
| 171                              | CYCLOPSE | 171 |
| Is that joke cause'a my one eye? |          |     |
| Arrrrrrrrghhhh!                  |          |     |

Jake grabs Trixie and pulls her out kicking and screaming.  
The cyclops's club CRASHES down where Trixie was.

172     TRIXIE                                 172  
You're just lucky my boy pulled me  
off of you.

As the melee continues in the background, Fu, Trix and Jake approach Monty who is in a quiet corner telling his sad tale to A BARTENDER.

173 MONTY HALL 173  
This milkshake, it's like life...  
so sweet -- until the chips get  
stuck in the straw and it gives you  
a headache. <sucking sounds>

MONTY - sucks on a straw that is blocked up. His cheeks sink in as Fu, Jake and Trixie approach. Fu motions the bartender.

174 FU DOG 174  
A round of brownie delights, and  
keep 'em coming.

Monty looks up.

175 FU DOG 175  
Hey, I know you... Eli Pandarus'  
sidekick, am I right?

176     MONTY HALL     176  
Yeah, until he gave me my walking  
papers.

The bartender slides a plate of brownies down the bar. Fu catches them, and holds them up to Monty.

177 FU DOG 177  
Why don'tcha tell Fu all about it.

178      MONTY HALL      178  
Pandarus dropped me like  
yesterday's news and took over the  
Manhattan Genius Institute without  
me.

179 JAKE 179  
Say what now?

180 MONTY HALL 180  
 He's lookin' for a super-genius to  
 unlock the code for some box he  
 has. He's been funding the world's  
 greatest scientists, but they  
 haven't been able to crack it, so  
 he decided to see if a fresh new  
 mind could do it. Thus, MGI.  
 Problem is, the poor sucker who  
 does it is gonna be in serious  
 trouble when Pandarus gets his  
 hands on 'em.

Jake, Trixie and Fu exchange a horrified looks.

181 JAKE/TRIXIE 181  
 Spud!

CUT TO:

INT. ARMORY - OBSERVATION ROOM - DAY

Pandarus, standing in shadow, talks to the TOAD from earlier.

182 PANDORUS 182  
 You've failed me. Your assignment  
 was to find the one without having  
 to reveal the code. Now I have no  
 choice but to show them the  
 tablets. Just remember, if no one  
 cracks it, you'll spend the rest of  
 your life as a toad, and an ugly  
 one at that.

Pandarus FLASHES his wand, and the toad becomes MRS.  
 GRUMPELSTOCK who tries to talk, but all that comes out is...

183 MRS. GRUMPELSTOCK 183  
 <ribbit>

As Pandarus watches through a two-way glass window she rushes  
 out the door to stand in front of the class.

PUSH THROUGH THE GLASS TO:

INT. ARMORY - CLASSROOM

Grumpelstock pushes a button, causing--

--A SERIES OF ANCIENT TABLETS to be raised on a platform out  
 of the floor.

Grumpelstock shines a laser on them, and numbers and ancient looking letters shine off them like a hologram.

184 MRS. GRUMPELSTOCK 184  
This is our final placement test. I  
don't want you to feel pressured,  
but it will determine the rest of  
your life... and mine. Whoever  
cracks this code is-- the one.

ANXIOUS GIRL - puts a paper bag over her mouth.

185 ARONA 185  
<hyperventilating noises> The one?

186 MRS. GRUMPELSTOCK 186  
(catching herself)  
The top student at MGI. And they'll  
receive a ribbon, and a certificate  
appropriate for framing.

187 STUDENTS 187  
Ooooo!/ I love a certificate!/ I  
can put it with my ribbon for best  
flosser with head gear.

188 MRS. GRUMPELSTOCK 188  
We will now begin.

As CLOCK TICKING MUSIC plays, we see A QUICK MONTAGE of students unable to crack the code.

1) ANXIOUS GIRL - passes out.

189 ANXIOUS GIRL 189  
<hyperventilating noises>

2) ARONA - writes out her answer. Mrs. Grumpelstock shakes her head. Arona is furious.

190 ARONA 190  
But, I never fail! Oh, the  
humiliation. H-U-M-I-L-I-A-T-I-O-N.  
Humiliation.

3) IRA - works out a complicated equation on the board, but on second thought runs his hand over it smudges the lines. As he bangs his head into the board, he mutters...

191 IRA 191  
The tables have turned... and this  
code has cracked me!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CLASSROOM - A LITTLE WHILE LATER

Grumpelstock stands distraught at the front of the class.

192 MRS. GRUMPELSTOCK 192  
Oh-no. No one cracked the code! You  
all croaked-- I mean choked! I have  
one final lesson... always be kind  
to toads!

Kids look confused as Spud raises his hand.

193 SPUD 193  
Hey-ho. I haven't tried it yet.

194 MRS. GRUMPELSTOCK 194  
Why waste our time, Mr. Spudinski.  
It's clear you don't belong at the  
Genius Institute. Why don't you  
pack your protractor and leave.

Spud, ecstatic, gets up and starts walking towards the exit.

195 SPUD 195  
Yesss! See ya!

Just as he's about to exit...

196 ARONA 196  
It's obvious he's not a real  
genius.

Spud hears this and slows to a stop. He turns back to face  
the class.

197 SPUD 197  
Why? Because I have a funny bone  
and I'm not afraid to use it? You  
guys are the reason I don't want to  
use my noggin'. Who wants to be a  
stressed out type-A who forgets to  
be a kid 'cause they're so busy  
trying to be perfect?

198 NERDY BOY 198  
I do!

199 SPUD 199  
Well, I don't! All work, no play.  
All play, no work. There has to be  
a balance!

200 IRA 200  
That speech would be moving, if you  
really were a genius!

201 SPUD 201  
Okay, I'll prove it... your code is  
easy. I mean, it might seem hard if  
you're looking at it in 2-D, but in  
3-D it's like taking candy from a  
baby.

The class, and Mrs. Grumpelstock look at the code.

202 MRS. GRUMPELSTOCK 202  
3-D?! I don't see it!

The class shakes their heads. None of them see it.

As Spud turns back to the tablets, we see (as in 'A Beautiful Mind') the numbers start to form words reading 3-D planes through the tablets.

203 SPUD 203  
Duh, you just take every fourth  
derivative of the dangling  
participle of the tenth letter of  
every sixth tablet and... what? No  
one's with me here?

THE DOOR - slams open. Pandarus steps into the room.

204 PANDARUS 204  
You! You're the one!

205 SPUD 205  
<gasp!> Eli Pandarus?! But, aren't  
you like totally evil?

206 PANDARUS 206  
Again with the flattery... but it  
won't work. Seize him! <evil laugh>

BRAINARD rushes into the room, and pulls Spud away.

FADE OUT.

END ACT TWO







217 PANDARUS 217  
Thank you.

218 SPUD 218  
But what makes you think I'm gonna  
help you? <evil laugh> (beat) My  
laugh of evil needs some work.

219 PANDARUS 219  
Indeed. And I think you're going to  
help me because if you don't I'll --

He moves in to hurt Spud, but he notices his fingers.

220 PANDORA 220  
Now why would I ruin a perfectly  
good manicure when I'm an evil  
wizard? Silly me. A moment please.

221 SPUD 221  
All the time you need.

Pandarus holds up TWO WANDS with either hand.

222 PANDARUS 222  
Manus admoveo movere motum!

In a burst of MAGICAL FX, two HUGE AND MONSTROUS CLAWED HANDS  
protrude from the end of the wands, serving as his own. They  
swipe at Spud, missing his torso by inches.

223 SPUD 223  
<panicked yells!> Okay! Okay! I'll  
read your curse.

224 PANDARUS 224  
I thought you might say that.

PANDARUS' MAGICAL CLAWS - pick up the box and hold it in  
front of Spud to read.

225 SPUD 225  
Okay, let's see... turn the lock  
fourteen degrees, yada yada, then  
flip the outer handle.... yada--

The box begins to rock back and forth. <EVIL WAILING> (same  
as from Fu Dog flashback) come from within as--

JAKE flies into the room with Trixie.

226 SPUD 226  
Jake!

227 PANDARUS 227  
Too late, dragon. Nothing can stop  
me now!

Jake leaps at Pandarus' arms, smacking the box out of his  
huge magical claws. It slides across the floor.

228 JAKE 228  
Guess again. How's about we decide  
once and for all who wins in a  
fight between brains and brawn.

229 PANDARUS 229  
Too bad for you, I've got both.

He lifts up his huge magical claws, and SMACKS JAKE across  
the room.

230 JAKE 230  
Whaaaaa...<impact>

Pandarus turns his attention back to Spud.

231 PANDARUS 231  
And too bad for you, Mr. Spudinski.  
I have no use for you now.

He flips a switch on the control panel, causing a huge  
BUZZSAW to WHIR out from the wall, heading right towards  
Spud. Meanwhile--

A FLURRY OF CUTS - as JAKE desperately tries to penetrate  
PANDARUS's arms of destruction, to no avail. Pandarus slaps  
him around like a rag doll.

232 JAKE 232  
<action noises> (then) Ow! Ow! Ow!

233 PANDARUS 233  
Can someone give me a hand... oh  
wait, they already did.

TRIXIE - looks on from the catwalk. She spots Spud in  
trouble, but Jake and Pandarus' battle stands in between  
them.

234 TRIXIE 234  
I gotta help a brother out.

In a kick-ass move, Trixie takes off her belt, and whips it  
around an overhead light fixture, and leaps off the catwalk.  
She swings across the room, towards Pandarus.



243 SPUD 243  
You came for me!

244 TRIxie 244  
Are you kidding? We couldn't get  
through two days without you, let  
alone two weeks. And you're  
crushing my spine a little.

245 SPUD 245  
Oh, sorry. (to Jake) Come here,  
you. Come on, give Spud the love.  
You know you wanna.

He puts Trixie down on the ground, then goes for Jake, who  
now has possession of Pandora's Box.

246 JAKE 246  
I'm fine where I am.

He picks Jake up for a hug. Jake gives in and hugs him back.

247 JAKE 247  
I'm givin' you the love.

248 SPUD 248  
That's what I'm talkin' bout.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SKATE PARK - THE NEXT DAY

Trixie and Jake walk up to Spud who is standing at the top of  
the tube with Arona, Ira and Anxious Girl.

249 TRIxie 249  
Spud, what're you doin'?

250 SPUD 250  
Teaching my new buds that you can  
be smart... and have fun too.

Ira looks at the ramp clearly stalling.

251 IRA 251  
At an average speed of 15 miles per  
hour down a 47 degree angle--

Jake turns to Spud.

252 JAKE 252  
Spud, I wanted to tell you, I'm  
really sorry I pushed you to do  
something you didn't want.

Spud looks back to Ira who is still stalling.

253 SPUD 253  
It's okay. Sometime a kid needs a  
little push from his friends.

Spud gives Ira a little helpful push down the ramp.

254 IRA 254  
Wooooohooooooooo! Yeah! Yeah!

In the background, Anxious Girl is hyperventilating while Ira  
and Arona get the hang of the boards.

255 SPUD 255  
Truth is, I was wrong to hide my  
noggin. When I was cracking the  
code, it felt good. Like I was  
being challenged. And I wouldn't  
have done that if you hadn't  
believed in me. I was even thinking  
of taking some advanced classes.

256 TRIxie 256  
Good to hear, Spud.

257 SPUD 257  
Oh, and you guys'll be glad to know  
I'm thinking maybe the life of a  
mime... not so much for me.

258 TRIxie 258  
So, what're you gonna be? A famous  
scientist? A mathematician?

259 SPUD 259  
No. Now, I'm thinking maybe I'm  
more of a one man band kinda dude.

He grabs a ONE MAN BAND dealio and slings it on. As he  
marches behind a horrified Spud and Trixie...

260 TRIxie/ JAKE 260  
Aw, man!

FADE OUT.

END SHOW